

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 6

With All Your Strength

With All Your Strength

The objective is the goal or main teaching point of this week's study. If you convey one thing to your players, make it this.

Read this passage aloud to the kids, as it will be the focus of this week's study. Each week's memory verse will be in bold.

Our lessons for our older age groups are designed to be more discussion-based. This section is for the coach to read ahead of time so that he/she understands the goal of the discussion and is able to direct the conversation.

Objective To show the players how everything they do can be worship if they do it in a way that honors the Lord.

Scripture Passage:

“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.”

Colossians 3:23-24 (Memory Verse, Colossians 3:23, in **bold**)

“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” 1 Corinthians 10:31

Coaches Guide

Last week, we looked at loving the Lord with our thoughts and words. Today's focus is on loving Him with all our strength, meaning our actions. When we think of pleasing God with what we do, we usually think of spiritual activities like reading the Bible, praying, or helping others. While these are important, the Bible says that we can bring glory to God even in the most ordinary daily activities, like eating and drinking.

Colossians 3:23 tells us to do everything as to the Lord. This verse was originally written to servants, telling them to serve not just when their masters were watching, but at all times, with the aim of pleasing the Lord, their true Master. The same way, in whatever we do, our main goal should be to please the Lord, not ourselves or other people. In school, we should do our work and be diligent, not just to please the teacher or our parents or to get good grades, but to please the Lord. At home, we obey our parents not to gain rewards or avoid punishment, but because God tells us to. When we do anything for God's glory and pleasure, even the most basic tasks can become acts of worship to God.

So how do we make sure our actions please the Lord? First, we must act according to God's Word. We can never please God by doing things the Bible says are wrong. But it's not only about what we do, but how we do it. Working diligently, having a good attitude, showing humility, and giving glory and thanks to God rather than ourselves are all ways that we can please the Lord in everything we do.

Team discussion gives questions to ask your team in order to discuss today's topic. Use the information from the coaches guide to steer the conversation toward the biblical truth.

"On the Court" gives some in-game situations where today's lesson can be applied, while "Off the Court" gives examples from everyday life. Encourage them to do the things you listed during the game today.

These are some final notes/goals to accomplish this week. These are not meant to be read, but are instructions for the coach.

Team Discussion

1. What does it mean to love the Lord with all your strength? What kinds of actions please the Lord?
2. 1 Corinthians 10:31 talks about pleasing the Lord in things like eating and drinking. What does it mean to do basic activities like these "to the glory of God"? How can we make everything into an act of worship?
3. What does it mean to do everything "as to the Lord, and not to men"? Who should we try to please with our actions?
4. How would aiming to please the Lord, rather than yourself or others, change the way you do things?
5. What does it look like to please the Lord with our actions at school? At home? With your friends? At basketball?

On the Court

- Some people don't like sitting out of the game, but your time on the bench can be a time of worship. Obey your coach when he or she pulls you off and use the time to encourage others.
- Work hard and play by the rules at all times, not just when others are watching, since God sees everything we do.
- In success, give God the glory. In failure, thank Him for the chance to play.

Off the Court

- Don't just do the right thing when an adult is watching. Do what's right, even if no one knows what you did.
- Work hard on your school work and chores and do them with a good attitude so that you can please the Lord.
- When you do something good, don't take the credit or glory for yourself. Use it to give God glory and thanks.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Philippians 4:8 (NIV), "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Colossians 3:23 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Make it your goal to bring God glory in everything your team does.